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There have been some enlargements and some curtailments; good maps are still plentiful, and the illustrations have generally been enlarged and improved. The questions designed for the teacher's use, placed formerly at the bottom of the pages, have been omitted, and, instead, at the end of the chapters "Topics for further Study" are added. These and the supplementary notes on the sources and references for supplementary reading are very valuable aids. The references are to the most useful and easily obtainable material, and they are given with discrimination and authority, as might be expected from Professor MacDonald, whose experience with documents and authorities makes him an expert in bibliography. The text is brought up to the date of publication, 1901, the last chapter being a good topical summary of the important recent events, without party color or bias on controverted party questions. This chapter takes the place of the final chapter in the old volume, which related chiefly to the state of the country and the causes of our growth, with some speculation as to the future. Teachers of American history in our secondary schools will find the new volume a very useful guide.

J. A. WOODBURN.

The Spanish Settlements within the Present Limits of the United States.

1513-1561. By WOODBURY LOWERY. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. 515.)

THE futility of human ambition, the helplessness of mere human effort when it tries to achieve that which is not, has never been illustrated more forcibly than in the records of the attempts made by the Spanish Conquistadores during the early sixteenth century to add portions of what is now the United States to the New World empire of Charles V. Spanish soldiers, settlers and priests accomplished marvellous things in the West Indies, in Mexico and Peru. In Florida and the Gulf region, in New Mexico and on the Nebraska prairies the same men could do nothing but wander about until hunger and debilitated energies forced those who had not died to leave the country. The reasons why this was so might afford an instructive subject for investigation by those who believe in the philosophy of history. They will find the material for their study admirably presented in Mr. Woodbury Lowery's carefully prepared account of the several attempts which the Spaniards made to explore the regions north from Havana and Mexico, prior to 1561. The men whose deeds he records, who struggled across the mountains and deserts of the west or pushed their way through the southern morasses, were as skilful as brave and as deserving of the reward as were those who secured the treasure hoards of Atahualpa and Motecuhzoma. And their reward, in the fame measured out by posterity, is as great. Thanks to another race, and circumstances past finding out, it has come to pass that the country explored disastrously by Ponce de Leon, de Soto and Vasquez Coronado is now a part of the territory of a great nation whose citizens are immensely interested in everything that is connected with its past.

Mr. Lowery has devoted for several years a large share of his time and means to the study of this portion of Spanish-American history. Starting with the standard historical treatises, he has accepted their conclusions, verified their references and consulted the public and private sources of information opened to him by his influential Spanish connections. His narrative is based, perforce, upon the writings of previous investigators, Dr. Shea, Buckingham Smith, Bandelier, and the publications of the National Bureau of Ethnology, but he has substantiated their opinions by abundant references to the authorities. New, and true, facts would hardly be expected from the fields which have been so thoroughly gleaned by Sir Arthur Helps and Varnhagen, John Fiske and Barnard Shipp. Mr. Lowery has, however, been rewarded in his study of the original documents by bringing to light a number of important corrections of errors in the opinions of previous writers, especially in those parts of the field where he has been enabled to supplement his own researches by those of Mr. Hodge of the Smithsonian Institution. It is unfortunate, in this work which is quite certain to rank as a standard authority and a principal source of popular knowledge concerning a very interesting portion of American history, that the résumé of the latest results of investigation did not also include so important a contribution as Judge Coopwood's study of Cabeza de Vaca. However, this comment is perhaps the best tribute to the value and merit of the volume which Mr. Lowery has given us. He has provided a readable and reliable account of each of the early Spanish expeditions into what is now the United States. By careful and thorough search he has gathered all the available information, not only about the better known explorers whose names are in the text-books, but equally about the less important ventures, meaningless each by itself, which become significant when grouped together so that the bearing of each upon the whole movement of colonial development becomes apparent. He has brought together the scattered references to a score of random voyagers; stray wanderers, who survive only in chance allusions to otherwise unheard-of happenings, such as the puzzling "Pompey stone" in New York, or the story of a "Columbus church" in Florida. Equally interesting, and equally new to most readers, are the accounts of the early Spanish martyrs on this soil, men who died as nobly and as truly for the cross as any of their fellow missionaries in the first or the last of Christian centuries.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP.

English Politics in Early Virginia History. By ALEXANDER BROWN,
D.C.L. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co.
1901. Pp. vi, 277.)

DR. ALEXANDER BROWN has performed an important service for American scholarship in collecting and publishing a mass of hitherto unprinted material on early Virginia history, and in coördinating and rendering generally available additional material that was so scattered, or